

REMARKS

No claims have been canceled, amended or added in this paper. Therefore, claims 1-2, 4, 6-30 and 32-40 are pending. Of these claims, claims 10, 20-24, 28-30 and 32-40 have been withdrawn by the Patent Office as being directed to a non-elected invention or non-elected species. Therefore, claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, 11-19 and 25-27 are under active consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Patent Office sets forth the following election of invention requirement:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-19, and 25-27 are, drawn to ramp, classified in class 404, subclass 34.

II. Claims 20-24 are, drawn to method of forming a ramp, classified in class 264, subclass 299.

III. Claims 28-30, and 32-40 are, drawn to method of installing a ramp, classified in class 404, subclass 72.

In response to the above, Applicant respectfully elects Group I, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-19 and 25-27.

In addition to setting forth the above election of invention requirement, the Patent Office also sets forth the following election of species requirement in the outstanding Office Action:

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 appears generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.


In response to the above requirement, Applicant respectfully elects the species of Fig. 5. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, 11-19 and 25-27 are readable on the elected species.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 1, 2004


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Dated: November 1, 2004